

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 EB-07 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAJ-01 ACDA-05

OMB-01 IO-11 DOTE-00 COME-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 TRSE-00

/083 W

----- 074321

O R 101718Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7098

USMISSION USBERLIN IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 04022

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PGOV GW GE WB US UK FR UR

SUBJECT: REICHSBAHN CONSTRUCTION IN WEST BERLIN

REFS: (A) BONN 3981; (B) USBER 466

BEGIN SUMMARY. THE BONN GROUP HAS RECOMMENDED THAT FRG PERMREP GAUS OUTLINE TO THE GDR ON MARCH 11 A COMPROMISE PROPOSAL WHICH WOULD PERMIT APPROVAL OF REICHSBAHN WORK IN WEST BERLIN, ON CONDITION THAT THE REICHSBAHN PLAY AN ACTIVE ROLE IN PROVIDING THE NECESSARY DOCUMENTATION VIA AN INTERMEDIARY. END SUMMARY.

1. AT BONN GROUP MEETING ON AFTERNOON OF MARCH 10, CHAIRMAN (US) INFORMED FRG REPS OF COMPROMISE PROPOSAL WHICH SENATOR STOBBE HAD MADE PREVIOUS DAY (REF B).

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HE STATED THAT ALLIED BONN GROUP REPS HAD STUDIED PRO-

POSAL AND CONSIDERED IT PROMISING, IN THAT IT CONTAINED THE MINIMUM ACCEPTABLE ELEMENTS OF A COMPROMISE AS PREVIOUSLY SPELLED OUT BY THE US AND FRENCH REPS -- I.E., THAT THERE SHOULD BE SOME ACTION ON THE PART OF THE REICHSBAHN ITSELF TO SHOW THAT IT CONTINUED TO ACKNOWLEDGE ALLIED AUTHORITY OVER REICHSBAHN PROPERTY AND ACTIVITIES.

2. CHAIRMAN CONTINUED THAT, ACTING ON STOBBE SUGGESTION, ALLIED REPS HAD OUTLINED THE PROPOSAL IN THE FORM OF TALKING POINTS, AND ASKED WHETHER THE FRG REP WOULD BE PREPARED TO RECOMMEND THAT GAUS MAKE THE POINTS CONTAINED IN THE PAPER IN HIS NEXT MEETING IN EAST BERLIN (WHICH FRG REP CONFIRMED WOULD TAKE PLACE AT 11:00 A.M., MARCH 11).

3. FRG REP (HENZE) THOUGHT THAT THE CHANCELLERY WOULD WELCOME THE PROPOSAL AND WOULD BE WILLING FOR GAUS TO PRESENT IT TO THE GDR. HENZE WAS UNABLE TO STATE WHO HAD ARRANGED THE MARCH 11 MEETING, AND ALL REPS AGREED THAT GAUS SHOULD NOT USE THE BONN GROUP PROPOSAL IF (A) THE GDR OPENED THE MEETING WITH A FLAT STATEMENT OF REFUSAL TO ACKNOWLEDGE ALLIED AUTHORITY, OR (B) THE GDR OPENED WITH A COMPROMISE PROPOSAL OF ITS OWN.

4. US REP REITERATED US INTEREST IN A COMPROMISE BUT STRESSED THAT THE PROPOSAL AT HAND CONTAINED THE MINIMUM ELEMENTS OF A SOLUTION THAT WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE US. FRENCH REP (BOISSIEU) SUPPORTED THIS, ADDING THAT HE WAS STRETCHING THE LIMITS OF HIS INSTRUCTIONS BUT WOULD CERTAINLY RECOMMEND THIS COMPROMISE TO PARIS. UK REP (HITCH), APPARENTLY STRENGTHENED AS A RESULT OF MORNING'S DISCUSSION (REF A), ADDED THAT UK EMBASSY ALSO WOULD LIKE TO SEE GAUS SUCCEED IN SELLING THIS COMPROMISE AND THAT ANY DISCUSSION OF WHAT MIGHT BE AN ULTIMATE FALLBACK POSITION FOR THE UK WAS PURELY HYPOTHETICAL AT THE MOMENT.

5. TEXT OF THE AGREED BONN GROUP "TALKING NOTES" FOR CONFIDENTIAL

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USE BY GAUS FOLLOWS:

BEGIN TEXT

DURING THE COURSE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE FRG AND THE GDR WHICH LED TO THE DECEMBER 19 ARRANGEMENT FOR IMPROVED TRANSIT RAIL SERVICES, WE, OF COURSE, COULD ONLY PROCEED ON THE BASIS THAT NORMAL PROCEDURES

CONCERNING REICHSBAHN OPERATIONS IN THE WSB WOULD BE
FOLLOWED IN IMPLEMENTING THIS ARRANGEMENT.

BEFORE THE ARRANGEMENT COULD BE IMPLEMENTED IN THE WSB,
IT WAS NECESSARY TO HAVE THE AUTHORIZATION OF THE THREE
WESTERN POWERS WHO EXERCISE SUPREME AUTHORITY THERE.
IN ISSUING SUCH AUTHORIZATION, THE THREE POWERS RECALLED
THE LONG-STANDING AND WELL-KNOWN PROCEDURES WHICH APPLY

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 04022

TO ALL WORK ON REICHSBAHN PROPERTY IN THE WSB.

WE HAVE BEEN IN CLOSE CONSULTATION WITH THE THREE POWERS
ON THIS QUESTION; THEY EXPECT THESE NORMAL PROCEDURES

TO BE FOLLOWED.

IF THE REICHSBAHN WERE, FOR EXAMPLE, IN THIS CASE
EXPEDITIOUSLY TO PROVIDE THE DOCUMENTS RELEVANT TO THE
CONSTRUCTION AND MODIFICATION ENVISAGED IN THE
DECEMBER 19 ARRANGEMENT VIA THE OFFICIALS WHO SERVE
AS LIAISON OFFICERS TO THE REICHSBAHN FROM THE US
MISSION AND BMG, THE AUTHORITIES OF THE THREE POWERS
WOULD STUDY THEM. ASSUMING THEY FOUND THEM IN ORDER,
THEY WOULD THEN ISSUE THE NECESSARY AUTHORIZATION TO
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THE REICHSBAHN.

END TEXT.

6. COMMENT. DESPITE FACT THAT GAUS OBVIOUSLY DID NOT
PRESS THE GDR TO COMPROMISE IN HIS FIRST MEETING WITH
SEIDEL, THERE ARE ENCOURAGING INDICATIONS THAT HE WILL
TAKE A FIRMER STAND TOMORROW IN EMPHASIZING THE
SERIOUSNESS OF THE SITUATION. AN FRG BONN GROUP REP
HAS TOLD US IN CONFIDENCE THAT LUECKING HAD A LONG
MEETING WITH GAUS AFTERNOON OF MARCH 9. UNTIL THEN,
ONLY THE FONOFF HAD UNDERSTOOD THE GRAVITY OF THE
SITUATION; GAUS, WE ARE TOLD, NOW HAS A MUCH BETTER
APPRECIATION OF THE PROBLEM.
HILLENBRAND

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CONSTRUCTION, RAILROADS, MEETINGS, BERLIN TRIPARTITE MATTERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BONN04022
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760090-1087
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760377/aaaacpva.tel
Line Count: 200
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 BONN 3981
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <31 MAR 2004 by MartinML>; APPROVED <29 JUL 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REICHSBAHN CONSTRUCTION IN WEST BERLIN
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, GE, GC, WB, US, UK, FR, UR
To: STATE USBERLIN
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006